Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Dakota Prairie Grasslands is the largest grassland in the U.S. Forest Service, encompassing approximately 1.2 million acres and is one of only two grasslands managed by the U.S. Forest Service as an independent unit; and,

Whereas, The Grasslands Supervisor's Office, located in Bismarck, North Dakota, oversees the Cedar River National Grasslands (6,700 acres), the Grand River National Grasslands (155,000 acres), Little Missouri National Grasslands (1,028,000 acres) and the Sheyenne National Grasslands (70,200 acres); and,

Whereas, The Dakota Prairie Grasslands are publicly-owned lands in North and South Dakota administered by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and are the home of four Ranger District Offices; the Grand River Ranger District Office on the Grand River and Cedar River National Grasslands, the Sheyenne Ranger District Office on the Sheyenne National Grasslands, the McKenzie Ranger District Office and the Medora Ranger District Office on the Little Missouri National Grasslands; and,

Whereas, The Dakota Prairie Grasslands are a treasure of natural science, revealing its secrets to scientists and others who come to study and conduct research on plants and animals, rocks and minerals, precious water resources, and even the air in this unique outdoor laboratory; and,

Whereas, October 16, 2008, will mark the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands as citizens gather in Lemmon, South Dakota, to celebrate the beauty of nature, the rolling prairie, and the opportunities available for all to enjoy:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 16, 2008, as

DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS DAY

in South Dakota, and I encourage citizens to explore the opportunities available on public lands and to support public lands in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State